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Livingston Biddle

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United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

5/10

TO: SENATOR

FROM: LB

INTERIM REPORT

Re Museum legislation, Steve suggests that we should consider holding joint hearings before the Arts and Humanities subcommittee on the Museum Services Act. You'll recall that when I represented you at the recent AAM seminar, conducted by Mr. Dillon, I said that you had given me leave to say that it was your intention to ~~hold~~ hold hearings on this bill before the summer recess.

I also am investigating the possibility of having a hearing at Winterthur on the subject of museum conservation when the experts in this area assemble in mid-June to discuss this subject, with some Smithsonian guidance. At present the Smithsonian feels that this is to be essentially a fairly unstructured discussion, and that a formal hearing at Winterthur would not be too productive. As an alternative I would attend this meeting and discussion as your observer, so as to get the full lay of the land.

At this time, I would suggest a July date for hearings on the Museum Services Act, when Arts and Humanities are out of the way, and after Senate-House conference which will be necessary.

Re...National Museum Act, the Smithsonian is preparing reauthorizing legislation, which Steve feels is needed.